

CHAPTER VI.

on Sibley and the broad and beautiful his reserve, "or are you worn out with valley of the Cloudwater when ence the | your night watch as officer of the day?' sun got fairly above the moist horizon. Mist and vapor and heavy cloud all then? Did she know it was he who seemed swallowed up in the gathering, | stood beneath her window; he who leapglowing warmth, as though the king of ed in chase of that scoundrel; he who day had risen athirst and drained the stole away with that heavy telltale ladwelcoming cup of nature. It must have der? And knowing all this, could she rained at least a little during the dark- stand there smiling in his face, the inness of the night, for dew there could have been none with skies so heavily beauty? Impossible! Yet what could she overcast, and yet the short, smooth turf | mean? on the parade, the leaves upon the little shade trees around the quadrangle and liswork of the colonel's veranda shone of his face, all struck her at once. Inand sparkled in the radiant light. The stantly her manner changed, roses in the little garden and the old fashioned morning glory vines over at are all worn out, and I'm keeping you the east side were all aglitter in the here at the gate. Come to the plazza and flooding sunshine when the bugler came sit down. I'll tell papa you are here, for out from a glance at the clock in the I know you want to see him." And she adjutant's office and sounded "sick tripped lightly away before he could recall" to the indifferent ear of the garri-

looked over the half dozen "hopelessly you. healthy" but would be invalids who wanted to get off guard duty or a morn-'blithe and low' out among the roses came fluttering down again. this same joyous morning, exuberant well being was not restricted to the men.

ty present than Alice Renwick as she look so tired, even ill." bent among the bushes or reached high among the vines in search of her favor- ed, "but I'm growing old and cannot | ite flowers-tall, slender, willowy, yet stand sleeplessness as you young people with exquisitely rounded form; slim, seem to." dainty little hands and feet; graceful arms and wrists, all revealed in the eagerly, narrowly, almost wonderingly. to his quarters after reveille, and he flowing sleeves of her snowy, weblike Not a trace of confusion, not a sign of was then there and resented my visit gown, fitting her and displaying her fear, and yet had he not seen her and and questions, admitted that he had sinnous grace of form as gowns so seldom do today. And then her face—a glorious picture of rich, ripe, tropical beauty, with its great soulful, sunlit land of drouns 10 minutes after my head touched the pillow, and mamma over heavily shaded though they were head touched the pillow, and mamma over heavily shaded though they were eyes, heavily shaded though they were head touched the pillow, and mamma with those wondrous lashes; beautiful, made me come home early last night too, in contour, as was the lithe body, and beautiful in every feature, even to we are going down to visit Annt Grace, where the down to visit Annt Grace, which is to down to visit Annt Grace, which is to down to visit Annt Grace, and the stopped, but I'm glad you that must be stopped, but I'm glad you that must be stopped, but I'm glad you think it of course staggers a stage. the rare and dewy curve of her red lips. Colonel Maynard's sister, at Lake Sab-man's judgment to be knocked down, half opened as she sang. She was smil- lon, and manma wanted me to be look- but if you had killed him it might have ing to herself as she crossed her soft, murmuring melody, and every little "and Inever heard a thing till reveille." while the great dark eyes glanced over toward the shaded doors of bachelors' and even stand one moment peering un- quickly spoke again: der the veranda at a darkened window

row. There was no one up to watch and half way down the row, as though imhalf way down the row, as though impatient at the nonappearance of some not breakfasted, I'm sure." familiar signal? How came the laggard the leaves and roses in a fragrant knot, | hoodwinked in this way. ran lightly within and laid them on the snowy cloth beside the colonel's seat more and fastened them, blushing, blissful, in the lace fringed opening of her gown, through which, soft and creamy, shone the perfect neck. "Daisy, tell my fortune, pray:

He loves me not-he loves me,"

gate, shaded her eyes with the shapely agitation. hand and gazed intently. 'Twas nearing 8—nearing breakfast time. But some one was coming. Horrid! Captain what does it mean? Who was shot? Tell Chester, of all men! Coming, of course, me! to see papa, and papa not down yet, and mamma had a headache and had decided not to come down at all-she would breakfast in her room. What girl on the shady veranda, across the sunshine earth, when looking and longing and of the parade and under the old piazza, waiting for the coming of a graceful youth of 26, would be anything but dis- window. mayed at the substitution therefor of a bulky, heavy hearted captain of 46, no clasping nervously, her eyes returning matter if he were still unmarried? And yet her smile was sweet and cordial.

"Why, good morning, Captain Chester. I'm so glad to see you this bright is concerned." day. Do come in and let me give you a



"Do come in and let me give you a rose." though in a dream, raising his forage ing it as I was shaving." cap at the same time, yet making no reply. He was looking at her far more closely than he imagined. How fresh, how radiant, how fair and gracious and winning! Every item of her attire was so pure and white and spotless; every fold and curve of her gown seemed charged with subtle, delicate fragrance, as faint and sweet as the shy and modest wood violet's. She noted his silence and his haggard eyes. She noted the intent gaze, and the color mounted

straightway to her forehead

for me?" she blithely laughed, striving A lovely morning it was that beamed to break through the awkwardness of

> He fairly started. Had she seen kim carnation of maiden innocence and

"How did you know I had so long a vigil?" he asked, and the cold, strained all the beautiful vines here on the trel- tone, the half averted eyes, the pallor

"Oh, forgive me, captain. I see you ply and rustled up the stairs. He could hear her light tap at the colonel's door Once each day at 7:30 a. m. the doc- and her soft, clear, flutelike voice, tor trudged across to the hospital and "Papa, Captain Chester is here to see

Papa, indeed! She spoke to him and of him as though he were her own. He ing at the range. Thanks to the search- treated her as though she were his flesh ing examination to which every soldier and blood-as though he loved her demust be subjected before he can enter votedly. Even before she came had not the service of Uncle Sam and to the dist they been prepared for this? Did not ciplined order of the lives of the men at Mrs. Maymard tell him that Alice had Sibley, maladies of any serious nature | become enthusiastically devoted to her were almost unknown. It was a glori-stepfather and considered him the most onsly healthy post, as everybody admit- | knightly and chivalric hero she had ever | ted, and, to judge from the specimen of seen? He could hear the colonel's hearty young womanhood that came singing and loving tone in reply, and then she after the shots were fired I inspected

"Papa will be with you in five minntes, captain. But won't you let me give A fairer picture never did dark beau- you some coffee? It's all rendy, and you not been occupied at all. When you

"I have had a bad night," he answer-

Was she faltering? He watched her

yet self doubting, too, searched her he have been thinking of? He must very soul. Unflinchingly the dark orbs | have been either drunk or mad, and he tell. Why should she not look thither looked into his, even pityingly, for she rarely drank. Oh, dear, dear, dear, but

He raised his hand as though to repel late? How slept the knight while here her offer, even to put her aside. He his lady stood impatient? She twined must understand her. He could not be

"Pardon me, Miss Renwick, but did you hear nothing strange last night or | ried face the colonel hade him adien. at table, came forth and plucked some carly this morning? Were you not disturbed at all?"

"I? No, indeed!" True, her face had changed now, but there was no fear in her eyes. It was a look of apprehension, perhaps of concern and curiosity mingled, for his tone betrayed that someshe blithely sang, then, hurrying to the thing had happened which caused him

"And you heard no shots fired?"

And now, with paling face and wild apprehension in her eyes, she turned and gazed beyond him, past the vines and searching that still closed and darkened

"Who?" she implored, her hands

eagerly to his face. "It was not Mr. Jerrold," he answered coldly. "He is unhart, so far as shot

"Then how is he hurt? Is he hurt at rose. Papa will soon be down." And all?" she persisted, and then as she met his gaze her eyes fell, and the burning blash of maiden chame surged up to her forehead She sank upon a sent and covered her face with her hands.

"I thought of Mr. Jerrold naturally. He said he would be over early this morning," was all she could find to say, "I have seen him and presume he will

come. To all appearances, he is the last man to suffer from last night's affair," he went on relentlessly, almost brutally, but she never winced. "It is odd you did not hear the shots. I thought yours was the northwest room-this one," he

indicated, pointing overhead. "So it is, and I slept there all last night and heard nothing-not a thing. Do tell me what the trouble was."

Then what was there for him to say? The colonel's footsteps were upon the stair, and the colonel, with extended hand and beaming face and cheery welcome, came forth from the open door-

"Welcome, Chester! I'm glad you've come just in time for breakfast. Mrs. Maynard won't be down. She slept badly last night and is sleeping now. What was the firing last night? I did she opened the gate and held forth one not hear it at the time, but the orderly long, slim hand. He took it slowly, as and old Maria, the cook, were discuss-

"It is that I came to see you about, colonel. I am the man to hold respon-

"No prisoners got away, I hope?" "No, sir. Nothing, I fear, that would seem to justify my action. I ordered No. 5 to fire."

"Why, what on earth could have happened around there-almost back of us?" said the colonel in surprise.

"I do not know what had happened or what was going to happen." And Chester paused a moment and glanced "And have you no word of greeting toward the door, through which Miss

Renwick had retired as soon as the colonel arrived. The old soldier seemed to understand the glance. "She would not listen," he said proudly.

"I know," explained Chester, "I think it best that no one but you should hear anything of the matter for the present until I have investigated further. It was nearly half past 3 this morning as I got around here on 5's post, inspecting sentinels, and came suddenly in the darkness upon a man carrying a ladder on his shoulder. I ordered him to halt. The reply was a violent blow, and the ladder and I were dropped at the same instant, while the man sprang into space and darted off in the direction of No. 5. I fol-lowed quick as I could, heard the challenge and the cries of halt and shouted to Leary to fire. He did, but missed his aim in the haste and darkness, and the man got safely away. Of course there is much talk and speculation about it around the post this morning, for several people heard the shots besides the guard, and, although I told Leary and others to say nothing, I know it is already generally known.

"Oh, well, come in to breakfast," said the colonel. "We'll talk it over

"Pardon me, sir, I cannot, I must get back home before guard mount, and Rollins is probably waiting to see ma now. I-I could not discuss it at the table, for there are some singular features about the matter."

"Who?"

"Mr. Jerrold, sir."

"Jerrold! Why, I got a note from him not 10 minutes ago saying he had an THE BOVININE CO., NEW YORK. engagement in town and asking permission to go before guard mounting, if Mr. Hall was ready. Hall wanted to go with him, Jerrold wrote, but Hall has not applied for permission to leave the

"It is Jerrold who is compromised, colonel. I may be all wrong in my suspicions, all wrong in reporting the matter to you at all, but in my perplexity and distress I see no other way," Frankly, the moment I caught sight of the man he looked like Jerrold, and two minutes Jerrold's quarters. He was not there, though the lamps were burning very low in the bedroom, and his bed had see Leary, sir, he will tell you that he also thought it must be Mr. Jerrold."

"The young scapegrace! Been off to "Colonel," said Chester quickly, "you-not I-must decide that. I went

up to the rifle camp or had driven to town after the decrey's party. Of course I KADWAYS READY RELIEF will stop the been as serious for you as this knockdown blow will be for him. That is the His eyes, sad, penetrating, doub-ing, worst phase of the matter. What could that's very bad-very bad-striking the "Captain, do come into the breakfast officer of the day! Why, Chester, that's the worst thing that's Imppened in the regiment since I took command of it. It's about the worst thing that could have happened to us. Of course he must go in arrest. I'll see the adjutant right | pains after breakfast. I'll be over early, Chester," And with grave and wor-

As he turned away Chester heard him saying again to himself, "About the worst thing he could have done-the worst thing he could have done!" And the captain's heart sank within him. What would the colonel say when he knew how far, far worse was the foul wrong Mr. Jerrold had done to him and

TO BE CONTINUED.

Le Bought the Sermon.

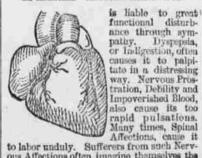
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"What's the matter, Jones?" inquired se vicar. "Oh, sir!" replied the clerk, "this is a painful surprise to us all," "Surprise, Jones? What do you mean?" "Your sermon this morning, sir. We are very, very sorry, and you gave us no warning. "Sermon, Jones? Sermon? What do you mean, man?" "Why, sir, your farewell sermon. We are all dreadfully eat up, And it is quite true that that morning the Rev. Mr. Smith had actually read an old farewell sermon without either intending or knowing it. - Spectator,

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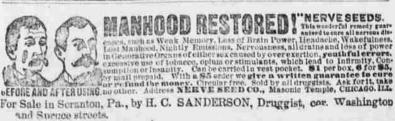
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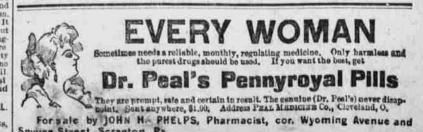
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